THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Involvement of NGOs in setting up projects for rural electrification using solar energy

†4449. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to encourage those Non-Government Organization/Companies which are taking interest in setting up projects for rural electrification using solar energy;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received in this regard;

(c) whether Government or Government bodies have started rural electrification through solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (d) The Ministry has initiated a programme during 2001-02 for electrification of remote and difficult villages, which are difficult to be electrified by conventional grid-extension, through renewable energy technologies like solar photovoltaics (SPV), biomass gasifiers and small hydro power (SHP). A majority of these villages are likely to be electrified trough solar energy. The programme provides for implementation through the State renewable energy development agencies, electricity boards, power departments, corporate entities set up by central or State governments, non-governmental organizations, panchayati raj institutions, co-operative societies and similar non-profit bodies. There is also a provision for giving a concession or license for electrification of a village or a cluster of villages to a corporate body or entrepreneur, who will bring a part of the investment and operate the project on a commercial basis. In all cases, arrangements are required to be made ror long term maintenance and servicing, as well as collection of monthly charges and other dues from the users.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

During 2001-02, about 20 solar photovoltaic (SPV) cell and module manufacturers in the country expressed their interest to participate in the Ministry's programme for electrification of remote and difficult villages. Some non-governmental organizations have also shown interest in implementing the village electrification programme. During 2001-02, the Ministry sanctioned many projects for electrification of villages through solar energy. These include 57 villages and 27 hamlets in Leh & Kargil Districts in Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir, 64 villages and 4 hamlets in Uttaranchal, 14 villages in Uttar Pradesh, 16 villages in Tripura, 213 villages in West Bengal, 30 villages in Chhattisgarh and 173 remote SC & ST colonies in Kerala. All these projects have been sanctioned to State agencies. In some States like Assam and Jammu & Kashmir the State agencies have involved some NGOs in implementation of the projects. The Ministry has already invited proposals from programme implementing organizations for taking up village electrification projects during 2002-03.

Providing Cheaper Power

†4450. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many sources in the country through which power on cheaper rates can be generated by proper management.

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/Area-wise/Number-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these sources are being ignored by Government;

(d) if so, steps being taken by Government in view of continuous increase in consumption/dependency of power; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Electricity can be generated at cheaper and reasonable rates in the country from hydro power, thermal power based on indigenous coal and lignite, and nuclear power.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.